We claim:

1. A method to increase the hot carcass weight of a meat-producing animal, comprising the steps of:

orally administering Vitamin C to said animal between about 2 and about 18 hours prior to harvest;

harvesting said animal; and

preparing a hot carcass from said harvested animal.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a phosphorylated ascorbic acid.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said phosphorylated ascorbic acid is selected from the group consisting of mono-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, di-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tri-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tetra-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, and mixtures thereof.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a sulfate ester of ascorbic acid.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

forming a feed composition comprising said Vitamin C, cane molasses, and dried citrus pulp;

feeding said feed composition to said animal between about 2 hours and about 48 hours prior to harvest.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said feed composition comprises:

about 5 weight percent of said cane molasses;

about 21.5 weight percent of said Vitamin C; and

about 73.5 weight percent of said dried citrus pulp.

7. A method to increase the pH of a meat product obtained from a meat-producing animal, comprising the steps of:

orally administering Vitamin C to said animal between about 2 and about 18 hours prior to harvest;

harvesting said animal; and

preparing said meat product from said harvested animal.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a phosphorylated ascorbic acid.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said phosphorylated ascorbic acid is selected from the group consisting of mono-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, di-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tri-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tetra-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, and mixtures thereof.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a sulfate ester of ascorbic acid.

11. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of:

forming a feed composition comprising said Vitamin C, cane molasses, and dried citrus pulp;

feeding said feed composition to said animal between about 2 hours and about 48 hours prior to harvest.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said feed composition comprises:

about 5 weight percent of said cane molasses;

about 21.5 weight percent of said Vitamin C; and

about 73.5 weight percent of said dried citrus pulp.

13. A method to increase the water content of a meat product obtained from a meat-producing animal, comprising the steps of:

orally administering Vitamin C to said animal between about 2 and about 18 hours prior to harvest;

harvesting said animal; and

preparing said meat product from said harvested animal.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a phosphorylated ascorbic acid.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said phosphorylated ascorbic acid is selected from the group consisting of mono-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, di-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tri-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tetra-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, and mixtures thereof.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a sulfate ester of ascorbic acid.

17. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of:

forming a feed composition comprising said Vitamin C, cane molasses, and dried citrus pulp;

feeding said feed composition to said animal between about 2 hours and about 48 hours prior to harvest.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said feed composition comprises:

about 5 weight percent of said cane molasses;

about 21.5 weight percent of said Vitamin C; and

about 73.5 weight percent of said dried citrus pulp.

19. A method to decrease the drip loss from a meat product obtained from a meat-producing animal, comprising the steps of:

orally administering Vitamin C to said animal between about 2 and about 18 hours prior to harvest;

harvesting said animal; and

preparing said meat product from said harvested animal.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said Vitamin C comprises phosphorylated ascorbic acid.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said phosphorylated ascorbic acid is selected from the group consisting of mono-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, di-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tri-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tetra-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, and mixtures thereof.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a sulfate ester of ascorbic acid.

23. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of:

forming a feed composition comprising said Vitamin C, cane molasses, and dried citrus pulp;

feeding said feed composition to said animal between about 2 hours and about 48 hours prior to harvest.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said feed composition comprises:

about 5 weight percent of said cane molasses;

about 21.5 weight percent of said Vitamin C; and

about 73.5 weight percent of said dried citrus pulp.